

Mecklenburg County
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Regular Meeting
May 16th, 2019

Members Present: Terri Stowers, Russell Price, Brittney Bagues, Janelle Fleck, Sonya Harper, David Strickland, Wanda Douglas, Denise Steele-Campbell, Ebony Rao, Darrell Gregory, Kevin Poirier, Heather Taraska, Leigh Altman, Lt Gene Lim, Jessica Davis, Pat Cotham, Beverly Dorn-Steele,

Staff Present: Scott Stoker, Elizabeth Swann

Guests Present: Shavonda McClure-Tresports, Reggie McNeil- TYM-SHIFT, Cara Evans-Patterson-CMPD Youth Diversion, Glenn Smith-Life Connections-DASH, Darryl Bego-Youth Development Initiatives, Matt Simon – Thompson Child & Family Focus, Becky Smith-Thompson Child & Family Focus, Jonelle Giulianelli-DASH, Perla Castro -Thompson, Robert Reynolds-Tresports, Leigh Altman-Community Member, Chrissy Clarke- Council for Children's Right

Members Absent: Scott Littlejohn, Dr. Cotrane Penn, Rev. Brenda Prince, Keith Cradle

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by the Chair Terri Stowers. Quorum was established.

Review and Approval of May 16th, 2019 Agenda:

Terri allowed council members to review the agenda. Heather Taraska moved to accept the agenda. Darrell Gregory seconded. The council unanimously approved the agenda.

Review and Approval of April 25th, 2019 Minutes: Terri allowed council members to review the minutes. Darrell Gregory moved to approve the minutes. Heather Taraska seconded. The council unanimously approved the minutes.

Announcements / Reminders

The attendance requirement is now 65% of all regularly scheduled committee meetings.

The inclusion of special and assigned subcommittee meetings is no longer applicable, its 65% of all regularly schedules meetings. There are no excused absences. Members cannot miss three consecutive regularly scheduled committee meetings. To have action in the subcommittee meetings there must be a quorum to be able to vote.

II. Action Item: Approval of Budget Revision for Thompson Child & Family Focus

Line item changed for \$4,000 from Line# 180 over to Line #260 for additional psych testing materials. To date Thompson Assessment has served 55 youths, under contract to serve 72. Darrell Gregory motion to approve, Lt Gene Lim seconded. The council unanimously approved the budget revision for Thompson Child & Family Focus.

II. Action Item: Approval of Budget Revision for Youth Development Initiative

Reallocate \$1,500 from Line # 220 to establish Line #310 for transposition for FLA clients and parents. There were no funds in transportation. Parents contacted YDI regarding obtaining transportation. Reallocate \$500 from Line # 290 to establish a line item for supplies & materials for administration trainings and materials. YDI has served 7 youths, the contract is for 25 youths.

YDI is trying to establish a transportation budget for the clients already served and the families that require transportation. YDI was advised that because the transportation funds were not in the original budget, that it couldn't be in the revised budget submitted once they were approved. YDI is now requesting the line item to be funded.

Terri advised new members to the council that Youth Development Initiative was only funded for six months and the original RFP is for an entire year, so they had adjustments and the original RFP didn't include transportation. Wanda Douglas motion to approve, Darrell Gregory seconded. The council unanimously approved the budget revision for Youth Development Initiative.

Approval of Budget Revision for DASH Strengthening Families

Scott Stoker stated there were discretionary funds from the Dept of Public Safety this year which is funds that are returned at the end of the year from the final accounting which usually goes to the general fund. This year NCDPS received \$400,000 and the NCDPS sent out information to all JCPC programs, DASH Strengthening Families was the only program that applied for \$2,104 which they were awarded. DASH requested a new refrigerator and warming plates. The funds are on the BOCC approval for May 21st the deadline is May 24th.

II. Action Item: Approval of Budget Revision for CMPD Youth Diversion Program

Youth Diversion has an excess of \$7,700 due to Line# 180 fringe benefits line and Line # 390 from a Spanish class where the extra funds will not be used. CMPD would like to reallocate the amount for supplies for incentives for the diversion class which would include a smart board and to take additional training the end of June. Darrell Gregory motion to approve, Denise Steele-Campbell seconded. Lt. Gene Lim abstained. The council approved the budget revision for CMPD Youth Diversion Program.

III. Monitoring Report -Dr. Dante Bryant, Research & Planning Manager, Criminal Justice Services Handouts were provided

Feedback from JCPC Programs

-finally seated at the table part of the conversations; for the new programs some type of matching program would be helpful, the 1st year is usually difficult; support and facilitate inter-program referrals.

Dr. Bryant's observation of speaking with the various programs with their work as it relates to equity asked if they would be interested in someone helping them to look at their policies, practices and procedures as it relates to equitable treatment in engagement of their clients. The programs welcome the idea of someone coming in with an equity tool kit to discuss. The concern from programs were how would that be funded? Criminal Justice Services has an equity specialist, the idea was to ask JCPC to provide that service to all the programs that are funded.

Sonya Harper stated that the work is already being conducted with justice systems partners within the adult space which is part of CJS's regular business. It can be made available to any JCPC program that is interested and if the council is comfortable moving forward the equity inclusion specialist within Criminal Justice can be made available.

Reschedule training on Introduction to Cultural Competency Implied Bias and Challenging conversations on May 20th, lunch will be provided. The training will be from 8:30-4:30pm

IV. Program Funding Grievance- Youth Development Initiative Handouts were provided

Terri read the By-Laws, section G: Any agency that wishes to dispute a decision of the JCPC regarding funding under the RFP shall submit a written appeal to the JCPC Chair within 5 business days of the date of the JCPC decision. The appeal at the minimum shall state the basis of the appeal, what statute or division, BOCC and JCPC policy and procedures were alleged to have been violated, what action is requested. The appeal must include supporting documentation for the council to adequately consider the appeal. The full JCPC will hear and rule on the appeal at the next scheduled regular JCPC meeting. Should the JCPC deny the appeal, the disputing agency may appeal to the County Manager, then to the BOCC and thereafter to the division in that order. Appeals to the division shall be made through the area consultant for Mecklenburg County.

Darryl Bego- YDI read the appeal script verbatim.

Discussions: Kevin Poirier asked Mr. Bego which policies were violated?

-Mr. Bego stated it's the actual general statute itself in which JCPC funding is supposed to be based on, it's the overall infrastructure in which funding is supposed to take place and that law clearly states

1. JCPC funding should go first to court involved juveniles and then elsewhere
2. fair and equitable treatment in terms of funding, you can't run a race and exempt one of the runners and give them a prize even though the other two have to run the race; fair funding practices which should be in the bylaws.

Darrell Gregory asked which by-laws specifically were not followed?

-Mr. Bego stated the fair funding practices.

Terri commented regarding Mr. Bego's original letter to her, it was stated the North Carolina General Statute, 143B regarding Juvenile Crime Prevention Council states the primary of the objective of JCPC is to provide at the local level an array of services funded by state local and other funds for court involved youths and then youth deemed to be risk of juvenile court involvement.

-Mr. Bego asked the council members do you think it's fair as a board to subject two programs out of three to funding requires that disproportioned? Should some programs comply and some not, is that fair?

Jessica Davis stated she is not understanding the foundation of the appeal, if you take away the comments regarding Mr. Russell Price, if YDI were funded and Tresports wasn't funded, we wouldn't be here. We are trying not to look at it just because its unfair to you.

-Mr. Bego stated every program has the same opportunity to appeal, I just exercise my right to appeal because the funding practice was particularly egregious to me, also there are two foundational elements, General Statute 143B is clear that funding programs are supposed to prioritize court involved youth first, the 2nd thing that if you were in the funding practice and on the other side and another program got prioritized consideration, would you consider it equitable or fair ?

Kevin Poirier stated he isn't seeing where looking at the General Statute 143B and the JCPC policies and procedures where its speaking of only prioritizing court involved youth. In fact, I see in the JCPC policy its outlines diversion programs that can be funded. Is your point we shouldn't be funding any diversion programs because they don't involve the court involved youth?

-Mr. Bego stated the selection criteria was judged on whether we served court involved youth, so if it wasn't a priority then the stats that were given wouldn't be relevant. Regarding diversion, kids can be

diverted from the court counselors as well, they are diverted from CMPD prior to them even going to the juvenile courts which means they are never court involved.

Terri reiterated that Russell Price gave stats for the last three years that YDI served in other counties, but you also have the last three years of numbers of the ones that had served our county. The council didn't have three years of YDI in front of them, however they did have three years of the other programs. The only thing that was presented to council from Scott Stoker and myself were the numbers for were programs that we funded for the last three years.

Russell Price commented last year he presented numbers on YDI and I was advised that the information would be valuable, so he brought information on every program that was funded in Mecklenburg County and funded in other counties. Regarding diversion, we can divert youth, if CMPD sends us a compliant, we can divert the youth from our office. The goal is to keep youths from coming to this office.

Jessica Davis asked what are you asking the JCPC council to do? Mr. Bego is requesting that the funding decisions made on May 2nd by the board for the two interpersonal skill choices be voided in a fair equitable funding deliberation selection process that takes place the evenly and equally criteria that applies to everybody and not exempt anyone which is the only fair way.

-Mr. Bego states he can't control whether court counselors refer youths to his program, he was down there three times within the first month, he received seven referrals, four were complete. He has asked Russell Price to advise why YDI hasn't receive any referrals and hasn't gotten a reply. There are measures within the system that are to measure a programs quality and recidivism, YDI SPEP scores are strong.

Terri want to add a point of clarification to either Scott or Russell regarding court involved or court referred, if a program serves youth that are count involved but weren't referred by the court are they the same in the system? Scott said he tracks referral sources and legal status, so if a referral comes from a school, if the youth is on probation and the legal status would be probation or judication, most of the information reported are the referral source, but we also have the legal status of the juveniles. The data that Scott reports to the JCPC board are referral sources.

Terri wanted the JCPC counsel to understand as the deliberation continues if there is a motion to grant Mr. Bego's appeal it will also need to accompany a motion that negates the previous funding decision of May 2nd. The ways the programs were voted on the Risks and Needs assessment and the residential temp shelter and voted on the rest of the programs as a block.

Jessica Davis inquired to Scott Stoker-NCDPS if any by-laws were violated? Scott stated he doesn't believe either by-laws or general statue was violated. Darrell Gregory made a motion to deny the YDI appeal, Heather Taraska seconded. Heather stated not every youth is appropriate for every program, the court counselors are there to figure out if a certain program will benefit a certain youth. The 2nd thing is that Russell, not he himself, but his position as a statutorily designated member of this JCPC council for a reason and he is in the books because he can come and provide information thru his office that can be helpful to us in making decisions.

Prior to taking a vote Terri added that if you abstain from voting that you state a reason why for the minutes. Terri further advised if you don't want to share why you abstain just state "I wish not to" Terri stated all in favor of denying YDI's appeal, please signify by raising your hand.

12 Denied

0 Opposed

2 Abstained Sonya Harper & Russell Price

Terri responded we have voted to deny YDI's appeal.

Committee Reports:

State N/A

County N/A

Monitoring Committee N/A

Risk & Needs Committee N/A

Funding Committee N/A

Bi-Laws Committee N/A

Nominating Committee N/A

Program Support Reschedule training on Introduction to Cultural Competency Implied Bias and Challenging conversations on May 20th, lunch will be provided. The training will be from 8:30-4:30pm

Executive Committee Terri will be presenting to the BOCC on June 4th at 6PM, inviting all to attend in support. There is an upcoming meeting on June 20th, last year there were no meeting in June or July. Terri will entertain a motion to cancel the June meeting, realizing if there is a motion not to have the June meeting that circumstances may appear where a meeting might have to be called for June depending on any further appeals. Heather Taraska made a motion to cancel the June meeting, Darrell Gregory seconded. The council unanimously approved the motion to cancel the June meeting.

Terri stated she has enjoyed her time as the JCPC Chair, she will still attend the July meeting to introduce her replacement. Wanda will also be leaving her position as Vice Chair but will still be a part of JCPC.

The council unanimously approve the motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Swann